

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of

GUNTER ZAUNER

Group Art Unit:

Application No.: NEW

Examiner:

Filed: January 29, 2004

Confirmation No.:

For: PRE-CONVERTER DEVICE FOR CLEANING EXHAUST GAS FOR AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

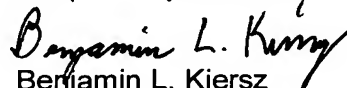
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.

Relevance of the non-English language reference(s) is discussed in the present specification.

A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language reference(s) appears in the Appendix attached hereto.

English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached hereto.

Respectfully Submitted,



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APPENDIX

Concise Explanation

JP 10-325315 – describes how to improve exhaust gas cleaning performance by providing a bulging room in an exhaust pipe and a pre-catalyst in the bulging room, and a main catalyst is exhaust unit in the downstream side of the exhaust pipe.

JP 05-086843 – describes how to improve the durability and to reduce cost by maintaining the reaction of main catalyst satisfactorily without decreasing engine output.

JP 8-326528 – describes how to attain desired exhaust gas purification without influencing engine output.

DE 100 02 024 C1 – describes an apparatus for treating a medium in a fuel cell system comprises a reactor (1) with a catalyst-containing region between a first partial chamber (2) of the reactor and a second partial chamber (3) of the reactor. The catalyst-containing region is arranged in the flow path of the medium. The first partial chamber is surrounded by the second partial chamber. The catalyst-containing region is arranged between the first inner partial chamber and the second outer partial chamber. The boundary wall (6) is formed by a fleece provided with a catalyst material.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

2

Complete if Known

Application Number

Filing Date

01/29/2004

First Named Inventor

Zauner

Art Unit

Examiner Name _____

Attorney Docket Number

086166-0307636

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ²
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		2 220 150 A GB	01/1990	Laimboeck		
		0 411 561 A1 EP	02/1991	Beggio		
		10-325315 JP	12/1998	Nagumo		X
		05-86843 JP	04/1993	Hosoda		X
		8-326528 JP	12/1996	Inokawa et al.		X

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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